

# STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PROGRAM:**

Pre-Trial Mediation

**PROGRAM ELEMENT:**

Bad Check Mediation Program

**PROGRAM MISSION:**

To provide the business community with a quick and effective way to recover their losses from bad checks, to identify repeat offenders and concentrate prosecution efforts on those offenders, and to lessen the burden on the court system while producing a successful result for the victim

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:**

- A caring and thriving business community
- Respect for the law
- Efficient delivery of quality services

**PROGRAM MEASURES**

	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 BUDGET	FY07 CE REC
<b>Outcomes/Results:</b>					
Percentage of mediation cases successfully mediated <sup>a</sup>	64.2	68.2	68.8	70	68
Monetary restitution recovered (\$)	387,501	246,589	239,957	300,000	250,000
Percentage of bad check cases recovered without court intervention	62.0	64.0	65.8	66.0	65.0
Percentage of bad check cases referred to court after failure of mediation	34.6	29.8	29.8	32.0	29.0
Percentage of bad check cases involving repeat offenders <sup>b</sup>	2.3	6.0	3.5	2.0	3.5
Fees collected (\$)	16,540	12,615	10,795	15,000	10,000
<b>Service Quality:</b>					
Percentage of merchants surveyed who rate the quality of service of the program as "excellent" or "good"	93	92	92	95	95
<b>Efficiency:</b>					
Average amount per case recovered by the merchant (\$)	464.07	346.82	390.17	333.33	416.67
Amount recovered for every dollar spent (\$)	3.74	2.26	2.14	2.54	2.03
<b>Workload/Outputs:</b>					
Mediation cases opened <sup>d</sup>	835	711	615	900	600
Cases identified as repeat offenders <sup>b</sup>	20	39	21	18	20
<b>Inputs:</b>					
Expenditures (\$) <sup>c</sup>	103,703	109,275	112,386	118,330	122,889
Workyears <sup>c</sup>	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

**Notes:**

<sup>a</sup>Mediation cases exclude repeat offenders and a small number of bad check cases that cannot be mediated or prosecuted (e.g. due to lack of witnesses).

<sup>b</sup>Repeat offender cases are taken to court without attempting mediation.

<sup>c</sup>Includes some staff time funded by the District Court.

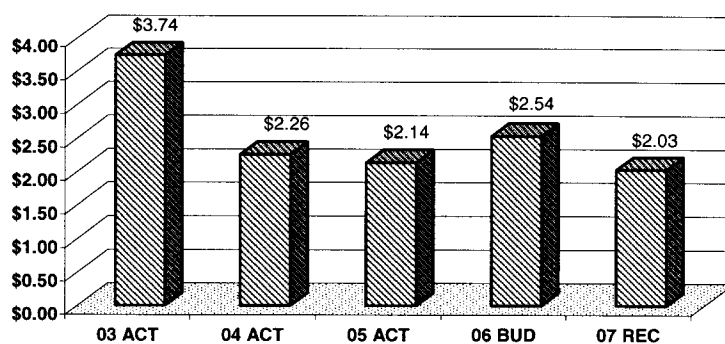
<sup>d</sup>The increase in the use of check/debit cards in the marketplace has resulted in a decrease in the utilization of checks.

**EXPLANATION:**

The goals of this program are to recover restitution for merchants who have been given bad checks without having to involve the criminal court system, and to review all bad checks reported in order to identify repeat criminal activity so that such matters can be charged criminally and dealt with by the court.

The success rate for mediation cases was 68.8 percent in FY05, while revenue from fees (which is returned to the County) totaled \$10,795, and \$2.14 was recovered for every dollar spent on the program. The number of repeat offender cases in FY05 was down 46% from the FY04 level.

**Amount Recovered per Dollar Spent**



**PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES:** District Court, Montgomery County Police.

**MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES:**

# STATE'S ATTORNEY

## PROGRAM:

Pre-Trial Mediation

## PROGRAM ELEMENT:

Rental Return Restitution Program

## PROGRAM MISSION:

To provide the business community with a quick and effective way to recover lost rental property, to identify repeat offenders and concentrate prosecution efforts on those offenders, and to lessen the burden on the court system while producing a successful result for the victim

## COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- A caring and thriving business community
- Respect for the law
- Efficient delivery of quality services

## PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 BUDGET	FY07 CE REC
<b>Outcomes/Results:</b>					
Percentage of cases successfully mediated	52.7	52.4	48.5	57	58.7
Monetary value of rental property recovered (\$)	174,408	176,080	162,630	190,000	198,000
Fees collected (\$)	1,300	2,125	2,470	3,000	3,000
<b>Service Quality:</b>					
Percentage of merchants surveyed who rate the program's quality of service as "good" or "excellent"	100	100	92	90	90
<b>Efficiency:</b>					
Average value of leased goods recovered by merchants (\$)	1,264	1,334	998	905	900
Amount recovered for every dollar spent (\$)	27.61	26.60	23.80	26.67	27.09
<b>Workload/Outputs:</b>					
Mediation cases opened	138	132	163	210	220
<b>Inputs:</b>					
Expenditures (\$)	6,316	6,620	6,834	7,125	7,308
Workyears	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

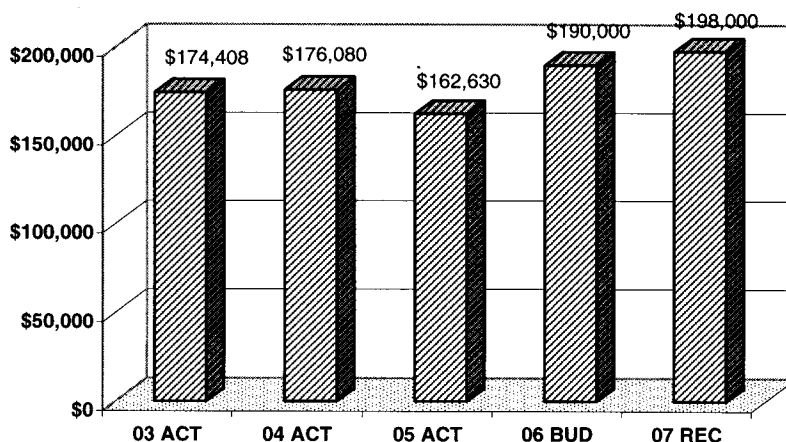
## Notes:

## EXPLANATION:

The goals of this program are to recover rental property and/or secure restitution to those merchants that provide rental services to the public without having to involve the criminal court system. In those cases that cannot be successfully mediated, this program will review the case and prepare charges so that the case can be successfully prosecuted.

The percentage of cases successfully mediated has fallen since FY03, in part because some vendors submit cases but fail to appear at the mediation hearing. In FY05, 48.5 percent of the mediation cases opened were successfully mediated, and \$23.80 was recovered for every dollar spent.

Monetary Value of Rental Property Recovered



**PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES:** Montgomery County Police, District Court.

## MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: